



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/596,719	10/10/2006	Dunstan Walter Runciman	11ES206688	9899
52082	7590	04/08/2008	EXAMINER	
GENERAL ELECTRIC CO. GLOBAL PATENT OPERATION 187 Danbury Road Suite 204 Wilton, CT 06897-4122				WANG, JACK K
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
2612			NOTIFICATION DATE	
04/08/2008			DELIVERY MODE	
			ELECTRONIC	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

gpo.mail@ge.com
allyson.carnaroli@ge.com

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/596,719	RUNCIMAN ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	JACK WANG	4154	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 October 2006.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>8/4/2006</u> .	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application
	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ .

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Andres et al. (US Patent # 6,522,248 B1).

Consider claim 1, Andres et al. clearly shown and disclose an alarm device for use with a fire detector or fire detection system (smoke detector) which emits an audible or visual alarm signal on detecting a fire condition, the device including discriminating means for recognizing the alarm signal and for activating a sound bomb upon recognition of an alarm signal (Column 6 lines 38-46).

Consider claim 6, Andres et al. clearly shown and discloses the a fire alarm installation which comprises a fire (smoke) detector having means for emitting, upon a fire situation being detected, in audible or visible signal having recognizable characteristics, and an alarm device including discriminating means for recognizing solid characteristics, a sound bomb (amplifier circuit 35 to drive output speaker 36A), and means for activating the sound bomb upon said discriminating means detecting a signal with said recognizable characteristics (Column 6 lines 10-27).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 2 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Andres et al. (US Patent # 6,522,248 B1) as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Roby et al. (Pub # US 2004/0145467 A1).

Consider claim 2, Andres et al. teaches similar invention except an alarm device and which includes means which enable it to learn the characteristics of the signal which it must recognize.

In the same field of endeavor, Roby et al. teaches an alarm device and which includes means which enable it to learn the characteristics of the signal which it must recognize [0053] for the benefit of providing the alarm activation by the compare detected signal to the pre-recorded signal and to prevent false alarm.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include means which enable it to learn the characteristics of the signal which it must recognize as shown in Roby et al., in Andres et al. device for the benefit of providing the alarm activation by the compare detected signal to the pre-recorded signal and to prevent false alarm.

Consider claim 7, Andres et al. teaches a fire alarm installation which comprises a fire (smoke) detector having means for emitting, upon a fire situation being detected, an audible or

visible signal having recognizable characteristics, a first alarm device including discriminating means for recognizing said characteristics and emitting its own signal having recognizable characteristics, and a second alarm device, the second alarm device having discriminating means for recognizing the characteristics of the signal of the first alarm device (Column 6 lines 38-46), except whereby the second alarm device is activated by the signal of the first alarm device.

In the same field of endeavor, Roby et al. teaches the second alarm device is activated by the signal of the first alarm device [0032 lines 1-3] for the benefit of amplifying the sound to further enhance the awareness.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include the second alarm device is activated by the signal of the first alarm device as shown in Roby et al., in Andres et al. device for the benefit of amplifying the sound to further enhance the awareness.

5. Claims 3 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Andres et al. (US Patent # 6,522,248 B1) as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Kosich (US Patent # 5,982,275).

Consider claim 3, Andres et al. teaches similar invention except an alarm device and which includes a light emitting means.

In the same field of endeavor, Kosich teaches an alarm device and which includes a light emitting means (Column 1 lines 16-20) for the benefit of providing a visual alert to the warn potential danger.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include an alarm device and which includes a light emitting means as

shown in Kosich, in Andres et al. device for the benefit of providing a visual alert to the warn potential danger.

Consider claim 4, Andres et al. teaches similar invention except an alarm device, wherein the light emitting means is a strobe light.

In the same field of endeavor, Koisch teaches an alarm device, wherein the light emitting means is a strobe light (Column 1 lines 16-20) for the benefit of providing a visual alert to the warn potential danger.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include an alarm device, wherein the light emitting means is a strobe light as shown in Koisch, in Andres et al. device for the benefit of providing a visual alert to the warn potential danger.

6. Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Andres et al. (US Patent # 6,522,248 B1) as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Fray (US Patent # 5,663,714).

Consider claim 5, Andres et al. teaches similar invention except an alarm device further comprising a recording and playback means on which a message can be recorded and means for actuating the recording and playback means upon the sound bomb being activated so that the message is played.

In the same field of endeavor, Fray teaches an alarm device further comprising a recording and playback means on which a message can be recorded and means for actuating the recording and playback means upon the sound bomb being activated so that the message is

played (Column 2 lines 10-19) for the benefit of play verbal instruction during the event of emergency.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include a recording and playback means on which a message can be recorded and means for actuating the recording and playback means upon the sound bomb being activated so that the message is played as shown in Fray, in Andres et al. device for the benefit of play verbal instruction during the event of emergency.

7. Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Andres et al. (US Patent # 6,522,248 B1) in view of Roby et al. (Pub # US 2004/0145467 A1) as applied to claim 2 above, and further in view of Kosich (US Patent # 5,982,275).

Consider claim 8, Andres et al. and Roby et al. combined reference teaches the similar invention except an alarm device which includes a light emitting means.

In the same field of endeavor, Koisch teaches an alarm device which includes a light emitting means (Column 1 lines 16-20) for the benefit of providing a visual alert to the warn potential danger.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include an alarm device which includes a light emitting means as shown in Koisch, in Andres et al. and Roby et al. combined device for the benefit of providing a visual alert to the warn potential danger.

Conclusion

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Art Unit: 4154

- a. Routman et al. (US Patent # 5,349,338) "Fire detector and alarm system".
- b. Starner et al. (Pub # US 2002/0030600 A1) "Fire alarm beacon system".
- c. McLean et al. (Pub # US 2004/0090340 A1) "Warning and guidance apparatus".
- d. Nelson et al. (Pub # US 2004/0155770 A1) "Audible alarm relay system".

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JACK WANG whose telephone number is (571)272-1938. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:00AM - 5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Angela Ortiz can be reached on 571-272-1206. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/JKW/

/Angela Ortiz/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 4154